

Symbolic Stories

Grade Two



OBJECTIVES

Students will gain general knowledge about Lewis and Clark and the Corps of Discovery. Students will explore the role bison played in the culture and art of the American Indians of the Great Plains during the time of Lewis and Clark's journey. Students will become familiar with the process of telling a story through artwork and will create a painting to tell a special story from their lives.



CLASS TIME

Four 30- to 45-minute sessions



NATIONAL STANDARDS

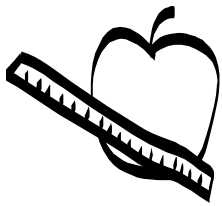
This lesson plan reflects some of the national standards of learning as defined by the National Council for the Social Studies (NCSS), the National Council for Teachers of English (NCTE), and the National Teachers of Visual Arts (NTVA). These standards are listed below:

- Social Studies: People, Places, and Environment
- Social Studies: Culture
- Language Arts: Students use spoken, written, and visual language to accomplish their own purposes (e.g., for learning, enjoyment, persuasion, and the exchange of information).
- Art: Understanding the visual arts in relation to history and cultures (e.g., knowing that the visual arts have both a history and specific relationships to various cultures, demonstrating how history, culture, and the visual arts can influence each other in making and studying works of art).



MATERIALS

- 1 overhead projector
- The following pages from the Resource Guide:
 - “Pre-2004 Jefferson Nickel Obverse” page
 - “Pre-2004 Jefferson Nickel Reverse” page
 - “American Bison Nickel Reverse” page
- “A Winter Gift” page
- “My Story” worksheet
- Classroom map of the United States
- Copies of an age-appropriate text that provides information about the bison and the American Indians, such as:
 - *The Buffalo* by Sabrina Crewe



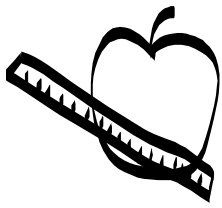
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- *Following Great Herds: the Plains Indians and the American Buffalo* by Ryan P. Randolph
- *Animal Lore and Legend: Buffalo* by Tiffany Midge
- *Plains Indians* by Kate Hayden
- *Buffalo Woman* by Paul Goble
- Internet sites about American Indian bison hides, such as:
 - www.peabody.harvard.edu/Lewis_and_Clark/robe.html
 - www.ed-resources.net/guide/exhibit/2.14.htm
 - www.americanhistory.si.edu/hohr/buffalo/aboutbison_hides_frmset.html
- Chart paper/markers
- Pencils
- Newspaper
- Brown paper or brown paper bags
- Sponge pieces or small spray bottle
- Small paper cups
- Water
- Watercolors
- Paintbrushes in various sizes
- Smocks (optional)
- Scissors
- American Indian music (optional)
- CD player (optional)
- Age-appropriate writing paper



PREPARATIONS

- Make copies of the following:
 - “A Winter Gift” page (1 per student)
 - “My Story” worksheet (1 per student)
- Make an overhead transparency of the following:
 - “Pre-2004 Jefferson Nickel Obverse” page from the Resource Guide
 - “Pre-2004 Jefferson Nickel Reverse” page from the Resource Guide
 - “American Bison Nickel Reverse” page from the Resource Guide
 - “A Winter Gift” page



Symbolic Stories

- Locate appropriate texts that provide basic historical information about the bison and American Indian customs (see examples under “Materials”).
- Create a “Special Events” chart. Divide a piece of chart paper into three columns. Label the columns “Special Event,” “Details,” and “Picture Symbols.”
- Bookmark appropriate Internet sites about American Indian bison hides (see examples under “Materials”).
- Cut rectangular pieces of brown paper (1 per student).
- Create a model “bison hide” for the students to use as a guide.
- Set up paint areas (tables covered with newspapers; watercolors, a paintbrush, a piece of sponge, a cup of water, and a piece of brown paper for each student).
- Locate American Indian music and a CD player (optional).



GROUPINGS

- Whole group
- Pairs
- Independent work



TERMS AND CONCEPTS

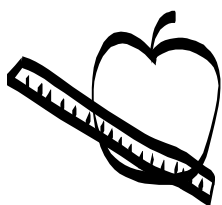
- Obverse (front)
- Reverse (back)
- Lewis and Clark
- Corps of Discovery
- Nickel
- Bison
- Pictographs
- Sequencing words (first, then, finally)



BACKGROUND KNOWLEDGE

Students should have a basic knowledge of:

- American Indians
- Thomas Jefferson
- Story writing
- Sequencing events



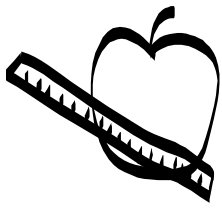
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STEPS

Session 1

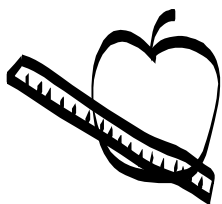
1. Display the transparency of the “Pre-2004 Jefferson Nickel Obverse” page. Ask the students to examine it and tell you what they know about this picture. If necessary, tell them that this is the obverse (front) of a nickel and that it shows President Thomas Jefferson.
2. Ask the students if they know what is on the reverse (back) of the nickel. After hearing responses, display the transparency of the “Pre-2004 Jefferson Nickel Reverse” page. If necessary, explain that the building was called “Monticello” and was the home of President Jefferson.
3. Explain that our country changed the design on the nickel in 2004 to help tell the story of Meriwether Lewis and William Clark, the two men who led an expedition that explored our western land 200 years ago, and that President Jefferson sponsored this journey. Now, in 2005, the Westward Journey Nickel Series™ continues with a third design on the nickel to tell another part of the story.
4. Display the transparency of the “American Bison Nickel Reverse” page and allow the students enough time to thoroughly examine the image. Explain to them that this is a large animal that was seen long ago on the plains by Lewis and Clark. If necessary, tell them that this is a special animal known as the bison or buffalo.
5. Explain to the students that the American bison is not really a buffalo—no species of buffalo is native to North America. But people have used the term “buffalo” to describe the American bison since before Lewis and Clark’s time, so the terms are virtually interchangeable in common usage.
6. Display a map of the United States and point out the area of North Dakota and its relation to the students’ state. Explain that this was one area where large groups of bison used to roam and run wild.
7. Ask the students what people they think may have been living in this area 200 years ago. After student responses are given, explain, if necessary, that American Indians were living there at that time.
8. Explain that they will be reading a story as a class about the bison and how it was important to the lives of the American Indians.
9. Introduce the students to the selected text and then read it aloud to the students. During the reading, attend to any unfamiliar vocabulary.
10. Using information from the text, ask the students to recall facts from the text about the bison and how it was important to the American Indians. Record student responses on chart paper.
11. Mention to the students that the American Indians painted pictures on the dried hide of the bison to show important events in their lives.



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Sessions 2 and 3

1. Review the chart and revisit the discussion about the text from the last session.
2. Emphasize the importance of bison hides as a material on which the American Indians could record important life events, such as a hunt.
3. Remind the students of the explorers mentioned in the previous session. Tell them that the explorers spent one winter with a group of American Indians called the Mandan and received a special gift from them.
4. Distribute a copy of the “A Winter Gift” page to each student. Also display the transparency of this page using an overhead projector. Read the page with the students. Encourage the students to underline key words on their copy.
5. Display a map of the United States. Show the students the location of North Dakota. Explain that this is the area where the Mandan Indians lived. Ask the students to recall what else was recently discussed about this area. The students should respond that this was the area where the bison also lived.
6. Display images of pictographs used by the American Indians from Web sites. Discuss the images and the colors used. Ask the students to tell what special story they think is being told and explain their answers.
7. Introduce the students to the “Special Events” chart. As a model, fill in the three columns on the chart paper using something you yourself have learned to do, such as learning to read, playing the piano, or riding a bike. Under the “Picture Symbols” column, draw pictographs of the accomplishment to show the students how the story can be written in another way.
8. Explain to the students that they will now have the opportunity to share a special event from their own lives such as a special day at school, relatives coming to visit, a trip they took, when they got a pet, etc. Record the ideas and suggestions on the chart.
9. Show the students the pre-made teacher example of a bison hide story. Ask them to predict what special memory they think is being told. Encourage the students to explain their answers. Tell the students that they will be creating their own “bison hide” to tell a special story through a pictograph painting in a later session.
10. Assign each student a partner and explain that they will each be writing a story about a special event in their life. Explain that they can use the class chart as a reference. The partners should help each other generate ideas and proofread each other’s written work.
11. Distribute one “My Story” worksheet to each student.
12. Tell the students that they will be filling out the top part of the worksheet with the special event and also the sequence and details of the story. They can work with their partners to generate ideas, story sequencing, and details.
13. Once they are finished with the top section, tell the students that they will now need to draw images or pictographs to tell their story like the American Indians did. Have images



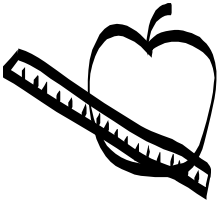
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of the American Indian pictographs displayed in the classroom. Students should also have copies of these pictographs available at their desks for near-point copying as they create their stories. Their images need to look similar to the ones the American Indians used to tell their stories.

14. While the writing pieces are being created, have small groups of students go to the teacher-supervised paint areas. The students should put their name on the back of the paper and turn the paper over. Then the students should *lightly* dampen the sponge piece and wipe it over the brown paper to soften it. Emphasize the fact that very little water should be used.
15. The students should then gently fold and crumple the paper into a large ball. This will soften the paper and give it the appearance of faux leather (this step should take about 5 to 7 minutes).
16. Set the paper pieces aside to dry completely.
17. When the students are not preparing their brown paper for the painting activity in Session 3, they should continue to work on story details for their worksheets.
18. Collect the “My Story” worksheets.

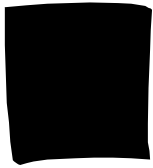
Session 4

1. Distribute the “My Story” worksheets from Sessions 2 and 3 to the students.
2. Distribute the students’ bison hide from the previous session. Direct them to carefully tear off pieces of the paper along the edge to form an irregular shape for their “hide.” Remind the students that the final piece needs to be large enough to paint their story on.
3. Have the students get with their partner from Session 2 and review the pictographs drawn on their worksheet. Continue to have the American Indian bison hide pictographs from the Web sites and the teacher created “bison hide” displayed in the classroom as a reference for the students.
4. Tell the students that now they will complete their special story using pictographs.
5. Explain to the students that they actually created the first draft of their “bison hide” story on the worksheet during the previous sessions. Now they will tell the story by painting images on the hides using their “My Story” worksheet as a guide.
6. Using the images created on the “My Story” worksheet and the American Indian pictographs in the classroom as a guide, direct the students to paint images on their “bison hide” (brown paper from Sessions 2 and 3).
7. Have American Indian music playing in the background while they paint (optional).
8. Set the painted “bison hides” aside to dry.
9. Direct the students who are not at the painting area at this time to write a final copy of their special story from the “My Story” worksheet for classroom display.



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10. Share with the students that sometimes American Indians gave away their bison hide to a special person. Invite any students who want to give away their hides to a person who is special to them to do so.
11. Display the symbolic bison hide stories in the classroom. Hang the writings nearby, and encourage others to match the written stories with the correct symbol stories.



ASSESSMENT

- Take anecdotal notes about the students' participation during the class discussions and the development of their stories and paintings.
- Check for students' comprehension through a discussion with the students about their stories and paintings.



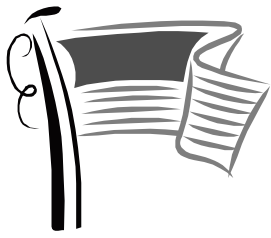
ENRICHMENTS/EXTENSIONS

- Have students do independent research about the Indian Head/Buffalo Head Nickel, minted from 1913 to 1938 at www.usmint.gov/kids/index.cfm?fileContents=coinNews/cotm/2001/06.cfm.
- Have students compare the obverse and reverse of the Indian Head/Buffalo Head Nickel with the American Bison Nickel.
- Have students do independent research about other coins that show an image of the bison such as the 2005 Kansas quarter.



DIFFERENTIATED LEARNING OPTIONS

- Allow students to dictate their story to a scribe.
- Allow students to cut out pre-made pictographs to glue to their bison hide painting.



Name _____

A Winter Gift



During the winter of 1804 to 1805, Lewis and Clark and the Corps of Discovery stayed with the Mandan Indians in their villages. The Mandans lived in what is today the state of North Dakota.

The Mandan Indians gave Lewis and Clark and their group several buffalo robes. The Indians used to paint symbols on the hides to tell stories about important times in their lives.

Since the men in the tribe were the hunters, the men drew the real images. Women then drew shapes like squares and circles.

The paints that were used on the robes were made from natural items like flowers. Some of the colors used were brown, red, orange, green, and yellow.

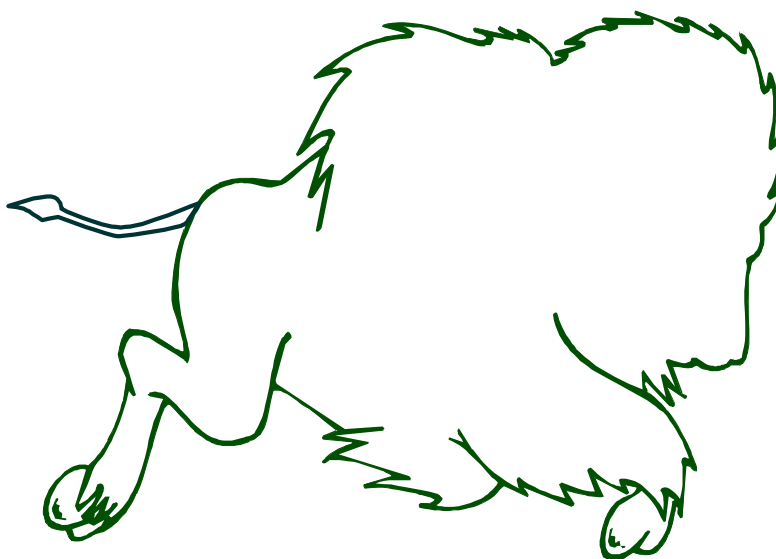
When the winter was over, before continuing on their journey, Lewis and Clark sent President Thomas Jefferson some of the items they had gathered,

including a buffalo robe. One of the items on the shipping list was "1 Buffalow robe painted by a Mandan man representing a battle that was faught...."



Name _____

My Story



This is a story about a special time in my life.

First, _____

Then, _____

Finally, _____

SYMBOLS OF MY STORY